AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (canceled).

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

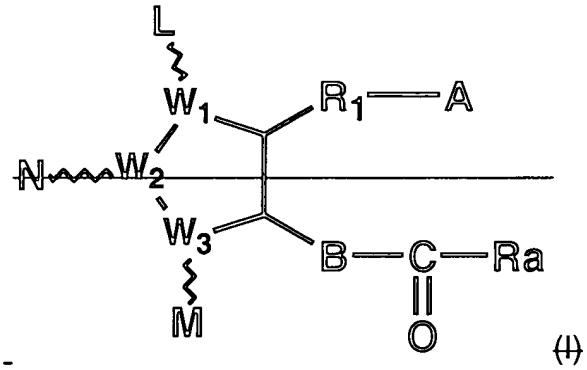
16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amendeed): A method for inhibiting apoptosis induced in the eyes of ~~in~~ a subject ~~having a disease or condition associated with apoptosis~~, which comprises administering an effective amount of a 15-keto-prostaglandin compound represented ~~by the following formula (I):~~



~~(I)~~

~~wherein W_1, W_2 and W_3 are carbon or oxygen atoms;~~

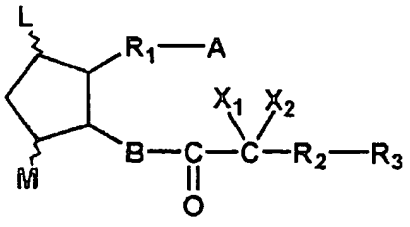
~~L, M and N are hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy(lower)alkyl or oxo, wherein at least one of L and M is a group other than hydrogen, and the five-membered ring may have one or more double bond(s);~~

~~A is $-CH_2OH$, $-COCH_2OH$, $-COOH$ or its functional derivative;~~

~~B is $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$ or $-C\equiv C-$;~~

~~R_1 is a divalent saturated or unsaturated lower medium aliphatic hydrocarbon residue, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, aryl or heterocyclic group; and~~

~~Ra is a saturated or unsaturated lower-medium aliphatic hydrocarbon residue, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, oxo, hydroxy, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyloxy, cyclo(lower)alkyl, cyclo(lower)alkyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclic group or heterocyclic-oxy group; cyclo(lower)alkyl; cyclo(lower)alkyloxy; aryl; aryloxy; heterocyclic group; or heterocyclic-oxy group~~ by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein L and M are hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy(lower)alkyl or oxo, wherein at least one of L and M is a group other than hydrogen, and the five-membered ring may have one or more double bond;

A is $-CH_2OH$, $-COCH_2OH$, -COOH or its functional derivative;

B is $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- or -C≡C-;

X_1 and X_2 are hydrogen, lower alkyl or halogen;

R_1 is a divalent saturated or unsaturated lower-medium aliphatic hydrocarbon residue, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, aryl or heterocyclic group;

R_2 is a single bond or lower alkylene; and

R_3 is lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, cyclo(lower)alkyl, cyclo(lower)alkyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclic group or heterocyclic-oxy group

to the subject.

21. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 13,14-dihydro-15-keto-prostaglandin compound.

22. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 15-keto-16-mono or dihalogen-prostaglandin compound.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 13,14-dihydro-15-keto-16-mono or di-halogen-prostaglandin compound.

24. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 15-keto-16-mono or di-fluoro-prostaglandin compound.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 13,14-dihydro-15-keto-16-mono or di-fluoro-prostaglandin compound.

26. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 15-keto-20-lower alkyl-prostaglandin compound.

27. (currently amended): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 15-keto-20-ethyl-prostaglandin compound.

28. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 2-decarboxy-2-(2-carboxy lower alkyl)-15-keto-prostaglandin compound.

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 2-decarboxy-2-(2-carboxyethyl)-15-keto-prostaglandin compound.

30. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto-prostaglandin compound is a 2-decarboxy-2-(2-carboxyethyl)-13,14-dihydro-15-keto-16-mono or di-fluoro prostaglandin compound.

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto prostaglandin compound is a 2-decarboxy-2-(2-carboxyethyl)-13,14-dihydro-15-keto-16-mono or di-fluoro prostaglandin compound.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto prostaglandin compound is a 2-decarboxy-2-(2-carboxyethyl)-13,14-dihydro-15-keto-16,16-di-fluoro-20-ethyl-prostaglandin compound.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto prostaglandin compound is a 15-keto-prostaglandin E compound.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the 15-keto prostaglandin compound is a 2-decarboxy-2-(2-carboxyethyl)-13,14-dihydro-15-keto-16,16-di-fluoro-20-ethyl-prostaglandin E_1 isopropyl ester.

35. (currently amended): The method of claim 20, wherein the ~~disease or condition associated with apoptosis is~~ subject has an eye disorder associated with apoptosis.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the eye disorder associated with apoptosis is an eye disorder caused by light.

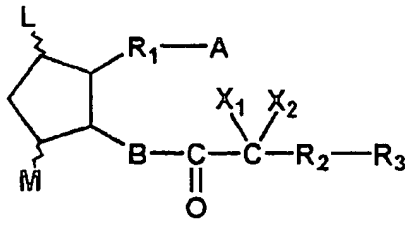
37. (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein the eye disorder caused by light is photoretinitis.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, which comprises administering ophthalmically a composition comprising a 15-keto-prostaglandin compound formulated in a dosage form suitable for ophthalmic administration.

39. (previously presented): The method of claim 38, wherein said composition is formulated as eye drops.

40. (new): The method of claim 20, wherein apoptosis is induced by light.

41. (new): A method for treating photoretinitis in a subject, which comprises administering an effective amount of a 15-keto prostaglandin compound represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein L and M are hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy(lower)alkyl or oxo, wherein at least one of L and M is a group other than hydrogen, and the five-membered ring may have one or more double bond;

A is $-CH_2OH$, $-COCH_2OH$, -COOH or its functional derivative;

B is $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- or -C≡C-;

X_1 and X_2 are hydrogen, lower alkyl or halogen;

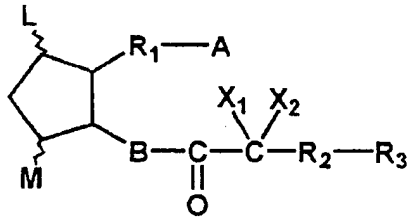
R_1 is a divalent saturated or unsaturated lower-medium aliphatic hydrocarbon residue, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, aryl or heterocyclic group;

R_2 is a single bond or lower alkylene; and

R_3 is lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, cyclo(lower)alkyl, cyclo(lower)alkyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclic group or heterocyclic-oxy group

to the subject.

42. (new): A method for the treatment of a subject having retinal cell disorder associated with apoptosis, which comprises administering an effective amount of a 15-keto prostaglandin compound represented by the formula (II):



(II)

wherein L and M are hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxy(lower)alkyl or oxo, wherein at least one of L and M is a group other than hydrogen, and the five-membered ring may have one or more double bond;

A is $-CH_2OH$, $-COCH_2OH$, -COOH or its functional derivative;

B is $-CH_2-CH_2-$, -CH=CH- or $-C\equiv C-$;

X_1 and X_2 are hydrogen, lower alkyl or halogen;

R_1 is a divalent saturated or unsaturated lower-medium aliphatic hydrocarbon residue, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, aryl or heterocyclic group;

R_2 is a single bond or lower alkylene; and

R_3 is lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, cyclo(lower)alkyl, cyclo(lower)alkyloxy, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclic group or heterocyclic-oxy group

to the subject.